

# South Carolina education accomplishments

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*(March 2009)*

## Test scores

**South Carolina's standardized test scores have increased, often dramatically, on every state, national, and international test administered. Our state's improvement consistently outpaces the nation's.**

- South Carolina's 34-point gain in SAT scores leads the nation over the past ten years among states where more than half of the graduating seniors take the test.
- For the first time in history, South Carolina students are scoring at and above the national average on nationally and internationally standardized tests.
- South Carolina scores are at or near the national average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the federally required tests widely considered the best measure for comparisons among states. South Carolina's performance on NAEP has resulted in top national rankings for improvement:
  - Math, Grade 4 – No. 1 in the nation
  - Math, Grade 8 – No. 1 in the nation
  - Science, Grade 4 – No. 1 in the nation
  - Science Grade 8 – No. 3 in the nation
- Standard and Poor's has identified South Carolina as an "outperformer" on NAEP for consistently achieving above statistical expectations.
- South Carolina students met or exceeded the international average in the Third International Math and Science Study, which compared test scores of students in 38 nations.
- South Carolina students have posted significant gains on statewide PACT testing across all grade levels, subjects, and demographic groups. Among the highlights are:
  - ENGLISH, GRADE 3: In 1999, 65 percent scored at grade level; in 2008, 87 percent scored at grade level.
  - ENGLISH, GRADE 5: In 1999, 65 percent scored at grade level; in 2008, 78 percent scored at grade level.
  - MATHEMATICS, GRADE 4: In 1999, 55 percent scored at grade level; in 2008, 79 percent scored at grade level.
  - MATHEMATICS, GRADE 6: In 1999, 53 percent scored at grade level; in 2008, 76 percent scored at grade level.
- The phase-in of full-day kindergarten has dramatically improved school readiness, with the biggest improvements made by minority students and students from low-income families.

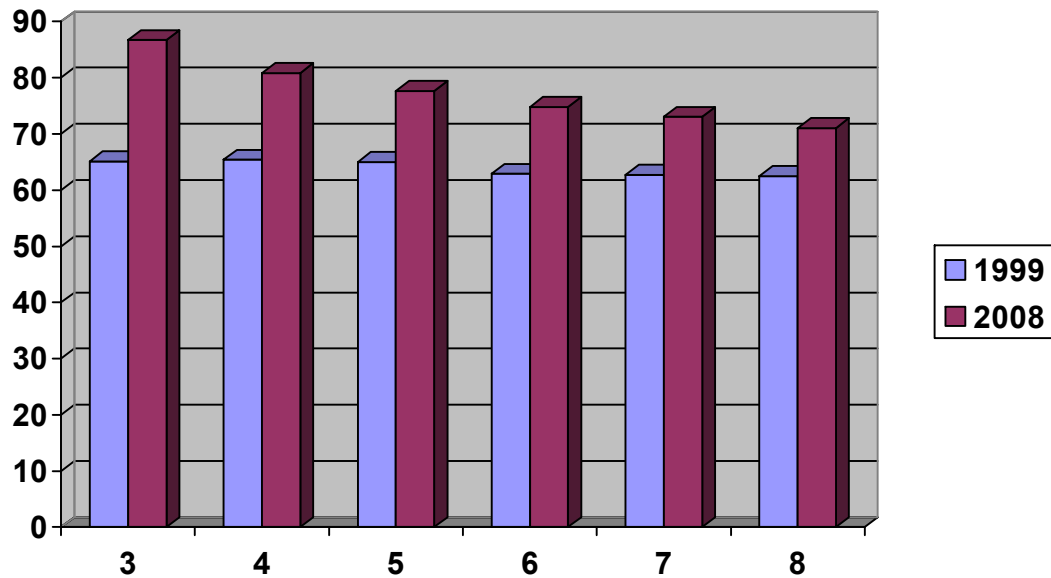
- South Carolina is one of only a few states that have increased high school seniors' scores on the ACT college entrance exam over the past five years despite dramatically increasing the number of students who took the exam.

## National standing and recognition

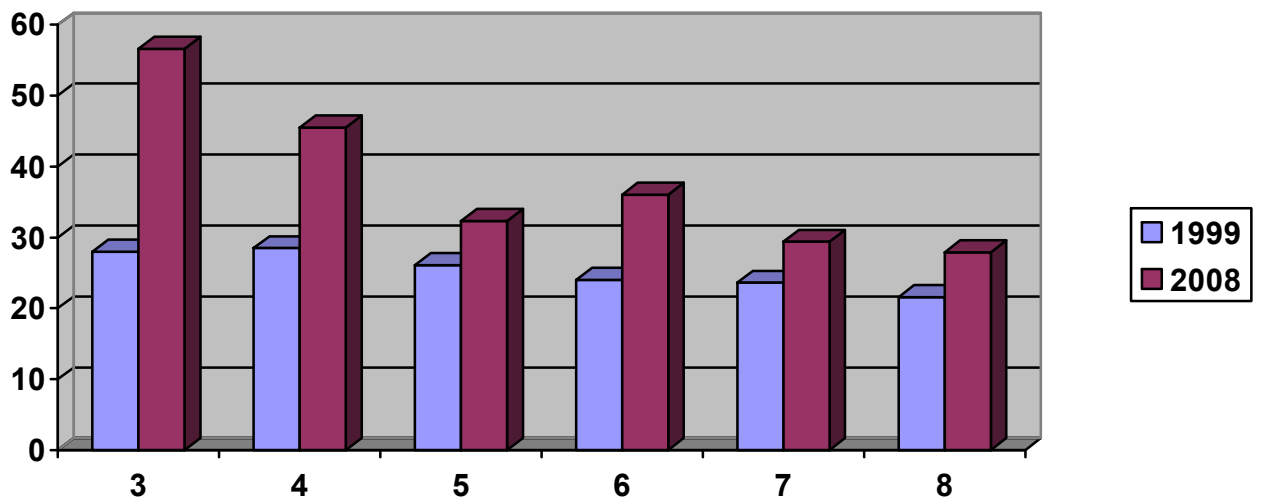
- The national report card "Quality Counts 2009," published by the respected magazine Education Week, ranked South Carolina No. 1 in the nation for improving teacher quality and No. 5 in the nation for its academic standards and accountability system.
- Seven independent national studies have cited South Carolina's academic standards as among the most rigorous in the nation. Most recently, the education research organization Education Trust ranked South Carolina and Maine as No. 1 in the nation for the rigor of student proficiency standards.
- The national journal Education Next said that South Carolina, Maine and Massachusetts have the nation's most rigorous standards for academic proficiency (Summer 2006).
- The Princeton Review ranked South Carolina's testing system as No. 11 in the nation and praised the state's academic proficiency standards as among the nation's most rigorous.
- South Carolina is a national leader in service-learning programs, which enable students to develop community service projects linked to their academic studies. Each year, more than 100,000 South Carolina students volunteer more than a million hours of community service through service-learning programs.
- South Carolina ranks third in the nation in the number of teachers certified by the prestigious National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, with 6,499 nationally certified teachers.
- The National Council on Teacher Quality rated South Carolina tops in the nation for identifying effective teachers, retaining those effective educators and dismissing ineffective teachers from the classroom.

# Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT)

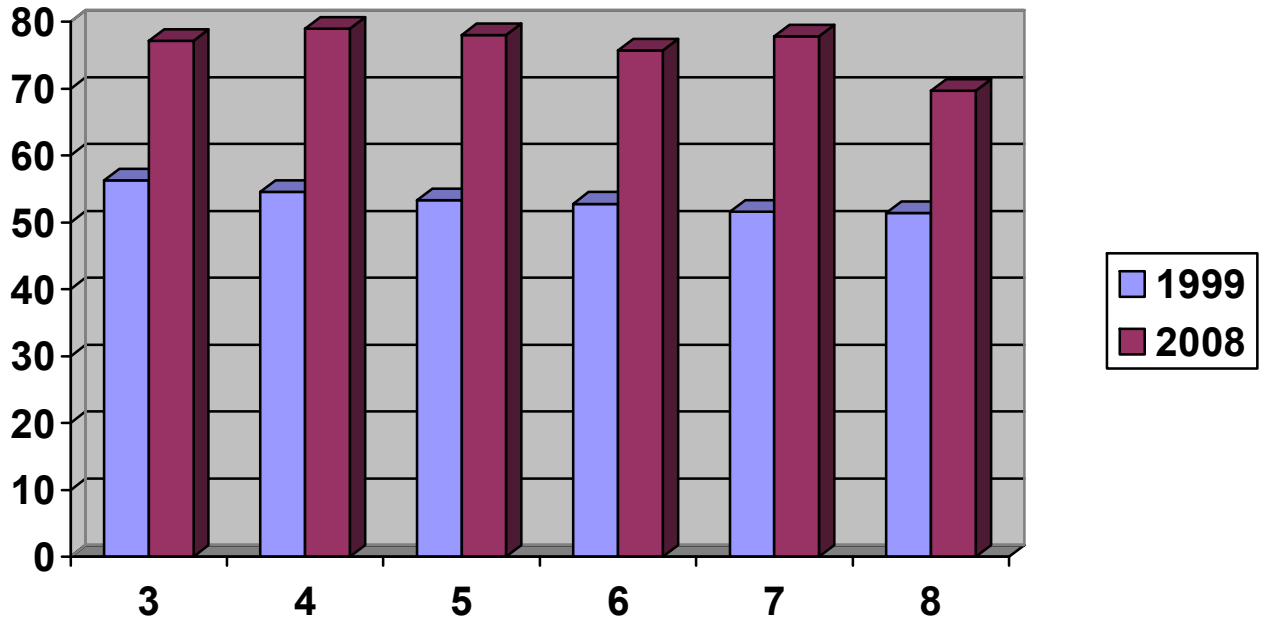
**English Language Arts  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Basic or Above  
1999 - 2008**



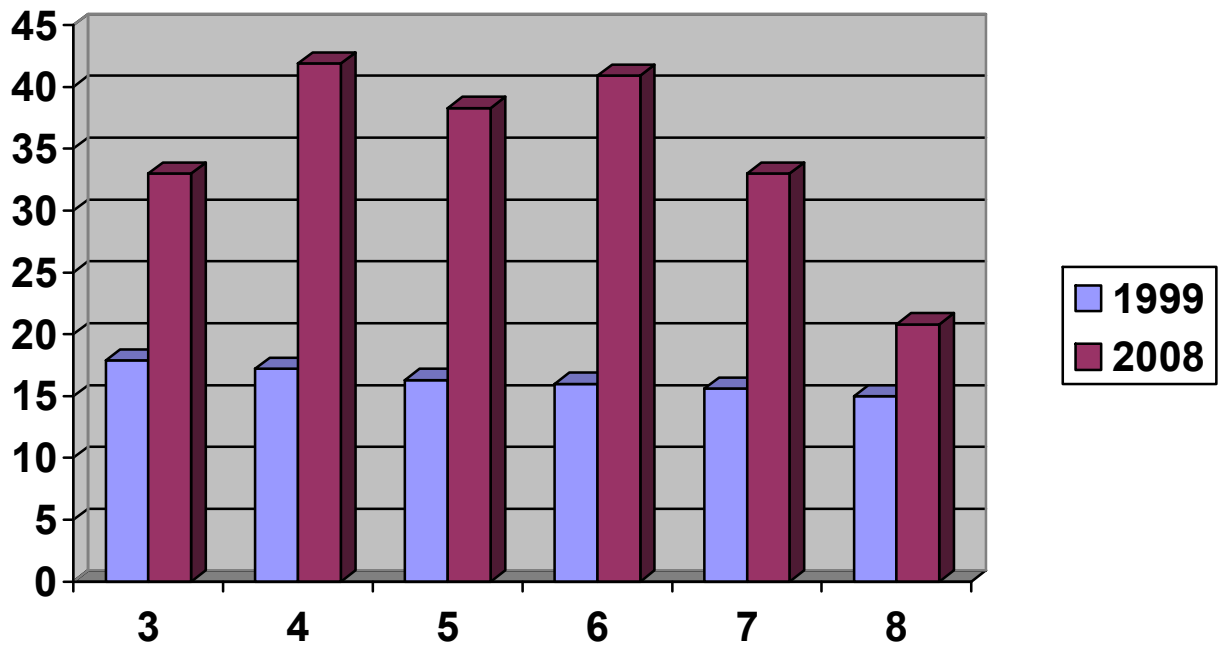
**English Language Arts  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Proficient or Advanced  
1999 - 2008**



**Mathematics  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Basic or Above  
1999 - 2008**

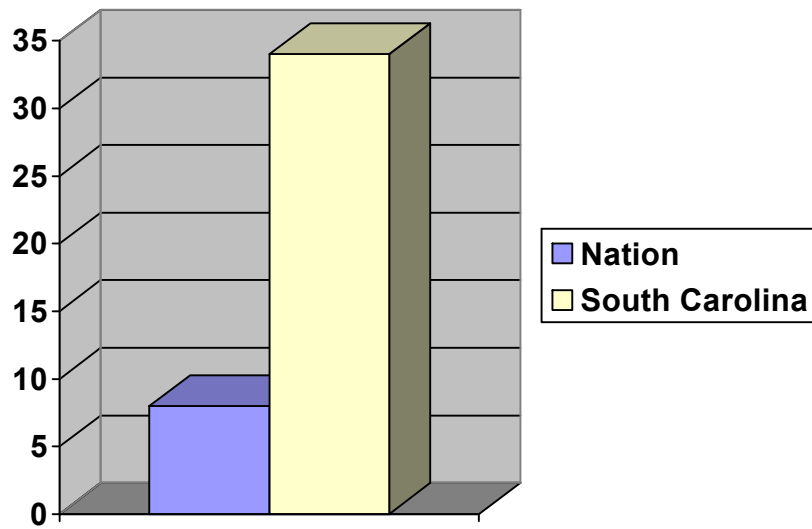


**Mathematics  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Proficient or Advanced  
1999 - 2008**



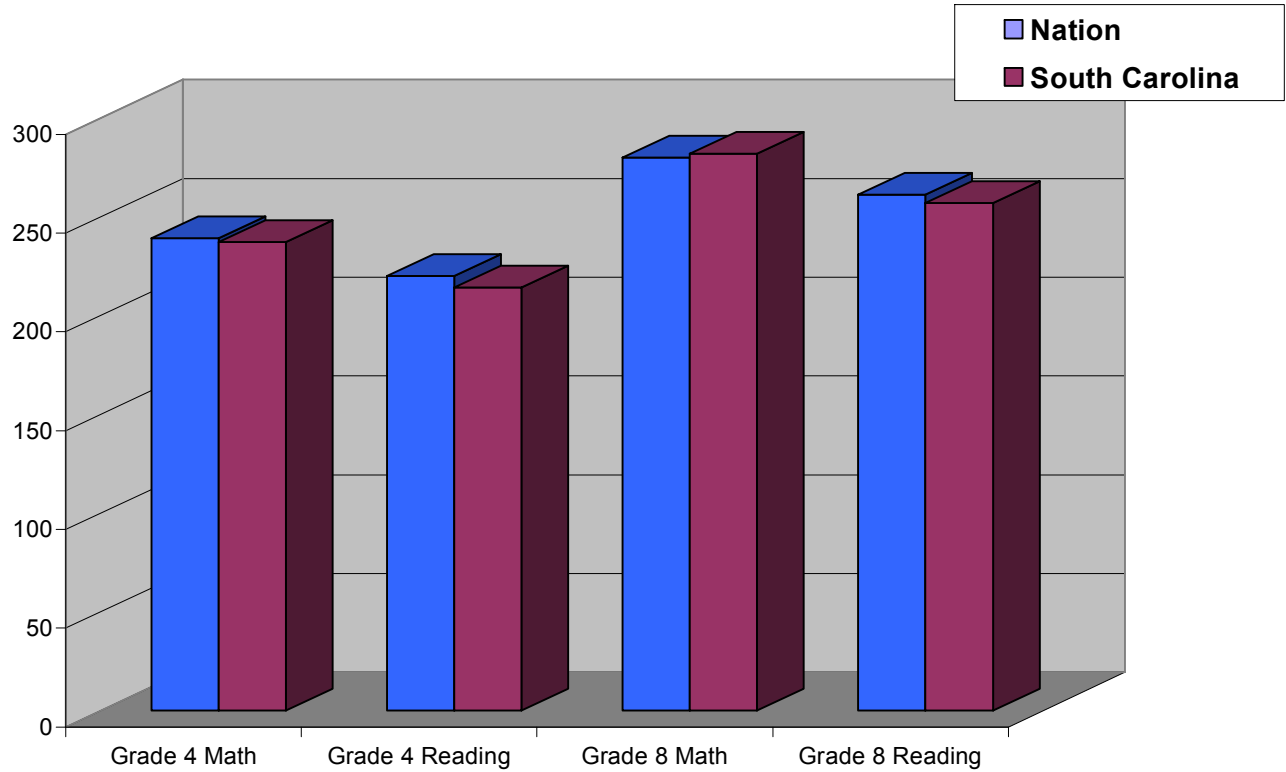
## Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)

**SAT Improvement Rate (Points Gained)  
South Carolina versus The Nation  
1998-2008**



# National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

## NAEP Scores by Grade 2007



## Percentage of Students Scoring Basic or Above on NAEP 2007

